

MEDDH-MR

7 February 1958

Professor Edward A. Doisy ✓
 Professor of Biochemistry
 St Louis University School of Medicine
 St Louis, Missouri

Dear Professor Doisy:

As you are no doubt well aware, the Department of Defense has been interested in the development of food-processing techniques utilizing radiation. The Surgeon General of the Army was requested in 1954 to undertake certain broad investigations regarding the wholesomeness of food processed by these radiation techniques.

Recently, Professor B. Connor Johnson and his group of investigators at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, reported that male rats fed irradiated beef for approximately one month develop a syndrome characterized by acute onset of hemorrhage from the GI tract as well as into the peritoneal cavity and the pleural cavity with death resulting in a short period of time. Several concepts regarding the mechanism of this syndrome have been considered. At the present time it would appear that Vitamin K is involved through the formation of Vitamin K antagonists formed during the irradiation of food.

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Nutrition to The Surgeon General, Dr John B. Youmans, Dean, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, as well as the several representatives of the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, have recommended to The Surgeon General of the Army that renewed efforts be made to determine the mechanism responsible for the findings reported by the University of Illinois investigators.

Because of our high regard for your capabilities in this particular field and in view of the fact that I received my medical education at St Louis University School of Medicine, as well as my warm personal feelings for Dr Wendell Griffith, a member of the Advisory Committee on Nutrition, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this problem further with you and your associates in St Louis, Missouri.

Sincerely,

TYRON E. HUBER, Colonel, MC
 Chief, Medical Research Branch
 Research and Development Division

18-22 July 1994
 Washington Federal Record Center
 RG 112, Office of the Surgeon General
 Department of the Army
 Accession #: 61A1527
 Box #: 241
 File: 000.8 (St. Louis Univ) W 1958

000.8 (St. Louis Univ) W